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FIRST DISECTIVE FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECREE ON ARCHIVES IN THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

Gesetzblatt der Deutschen Demokratischen Republik, No 92, 1950.

Pursuant to Article 6 of the Decree of 13 July 1950 on Archives in the GDR (German Democratic Republic), as published in the Gesetzblatt der Deutschen Demokratischen Republik (Legal Gazette of the GDR), No 92, 1950, p 661, the following implementation directive is hereby issued:

Article 1

SOURCE

The archives system in the GDR shall comprise all such documents and records as have originated or shall criginate in the public life of the state and of its people, regardless of the time of such origin or the technique of preserarchives themselves.

Article 2

- 1. The GDR and its Laender shall maintain government archives.
- 2. Districts, municipalities, and rural communities may be instructed to establish their own archives or to transfer their public records to the GDR Archives.
- 3. Other official bodies, institutions, and organizations shall be entitled to establish and maintain state-accredited archives on approval by the GDR Ministry of Interior or by the Ministries of Interior of the various Laender.

Article 3

- 1. All records and documents which are to be preserved shall be collected and filed in the Central German Archives, the archives of the Laender, the communal archives, or other government-accredited archives, depending on their origin.
- The archives authorities shall be responsible for the proper and secure preservation of the documents entrusted to their custody.

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Article 4

- 1. The Central German Archives, the archives administrations of the Laender, and the archives offices of the Laender shall operate as prescribed by directives issued by the Division of Archives, GDR Ministry of Interior.
- 2. The Laender Ministries of Interior shall be responsible for archives in the Laender.
- 3. The execution of the tasks assigned to the Laender shall be the responsibility of the archives administrations of the Laender.
- 4. The Division of Archives, GDR Ministry of Interior, and the archives administrations shall supervise and guide the communal and state-accredited archives in their functions.

Article 5

- 1. The Division of Archives, GDR Ministry of Interior, with the approval of the Regierungskauzlei (the office of the Ministry President) and the Ministries of the German Democratic Republic, shall determine which official records are to be preserved, and the time when such records shall be turned over to the archives.
- 2. No agency shall be authorized to destroy any official records, business documents, etc., without the approval of the competent archives authorities.
- 3. Regulations issued by the archives administrations of the Laender shall remain in effect until further notice.

Article 6

- 1. The Division of Archives, GDR Ministry of Interior, shall issue directives for the use and exploitation for scientific research and for administrative, legal, political, sociological, and private purposes of material contained in the archives.
- 2. Cirectives to archives offices not directly subordinate to the Ministry of Interior shall be issued with the approval of the competent ministry.

Article 7

1. New personnel for the archives offices shall be trained, under the direction of the Division of Archives, GDR Ministry of Interior, at the Deutsche Verwaltungsakadlmie Walter Ulbricht (Walter Ulbricht German Academy of Administration) in Forst Zinna, with the approval of the personnel department of the GDR Ministry of Interior.

Article 8

The exchange or transfer of documents from the GDR Archives to other parts of Germany or to foreign countries shall be subject to approval by the GDR Ministry of Interior.

Article 9

This directive shall be effective on publication.

Berlin, 13 July 1950 Dr Steinhoff, Minister Ministry of Interior

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